

## What Are the Principal Parts Verbs?

Verbs do follow a pattern of use. As I have said before, if you become familiar with the pattern of use, you are less likely to make errors in tense and voice within your writing.

Auxiliary verbs are combined with main verbs to form Verb Phrases or Verb Strings. Study the chart below to become more familiar with the principal parts of verbs.

### Four Principal Parts of Verbs

	Present Tense (Base Form)	Present Participle	Past Tense	Past Participle
Form and Use	Add <b>-s</b> to these verbs to agree with the subject— <b>singular verb -s,</b> <b>plural verb -s</b>	Add <b>-ing</b> to the base form of the verb to express an action in progress or occurring over a period of time	Add <b>-d</b> or <b>-ed</b> to the base form of the verb to express an action in the past	Uses the past tense to express action in the past that may lead to a future action
Auxiliary Verbs	(no helping verbs)	<b>am, is, are, was, were, be</b>	(no helping verbs)	<b>has, have, had</b>
First-person	I walk	I <b>am</b> walking	I walked	I <b>have</b> walked
Third-person singular	He walks	He <b>is</b> walking	He walked	He <b>has</b> walked
Third-person plural	We walk	We <b>are</b> walking	We walked	We <b>have</b> walked

Notice that for each verb part, there are only specific auxiliary verbs that are used. Combining these forms with different auxiliary verbs help to form the twelve standard verb tenses. Study the charts below to become more familiar with verb tenses and how they are formed. Notice that the chart does NOT include the basic tenses—past, present, and future. At this point, you should have adequate knowledge of their use and so they are not included. If not, there are a multitude of Websites that cover elementary verb use. Here we will be reviewing the more advanced verbs that are expected to be used in secondary level writing.

### Perfect Tenses

	Past Participle	Present Perfect	Past Perfect	Future Perfect
Form and Use	Add <b>-d</b> or <b>-ed</b> to the base form of the verb to express an action in the past	Add <i>has</i> or <i>have</i> to the Past Participle to express an event that occurs in the past, but leads to the present	Add <i>had</i> to the Past Participle to express an action that occurs in the past prior to another event	Add <i>will have</i> or <i>shall have</i> to the Past Participle to express action in the past that may lead to a future action
Auxiliary Verbs	<b>has, have, had</b>	<b>Singular—has, have</b> <b>Plural—have</b>	<b>had</b>	<b>will have, shall have</b>
First-person		I <b>have walked</b>	I <b>had walked</b>	I <b>will have walked</b>
Third-person singular		He <b>has walked</b>	He <b>had walked</b>	He <b>will have walked</b>
Third-person plural		We <b>have walked</b>	We <b>had walked</b>	We <b>will have walked</b>

## Progressive Tenses

	Present Participle	Present Progressive	Past Progressive	Future Progressive
<b>Form and Use</b>	Add <b>-ing</b> to the base form of the verb to express activity progress	Add <i>am, is, or are</i> to the Present Participle to express an action in progress	Add <i>was or were</i> to the Present Participle to express a past action that occurred over a period of time	Add <i>will be or shall be</i> to the Present Participle to express a future action related to a present action
<b>Auxiliary Verbs</b>	<b>am, is, are, was, were, be</b>	<b>Singular—am, is Plural—are</b>	<b>Singular—was Plural—were</b>	<b>will be, shall be</b>
<b>First-person</b>		<b>I am walking</b>	<b>I was walking</b>	<b>I will be walking</b>
<b>Third-person singular</b>		He <b>is walking</b>	He <b>was walking</b>	He <b>will be walking</b>
<b>Third-person plural</b>		We <b>are walking</b>	We <b>were walking</b>	We <b>will be walking</b>

## Perfect Progressive Tenses

	Present Participle	Present Perfect Progressive	Past Perfect Progressive	Future Perfect Progressive
<b>Form and Use</b>	Add <b>-ing</b> to the base form of the verb to express activity progress	Add <i>has been or have been</i> to the Present Participle to express a continuous action that may be continuing	Add <i>had been</i> to the Present Participle to express a past action that was completed in the past	Add <i>will have been or shall have been</i> to the Present Participle to express a continuous action that will end in the future
<b>Auxiliary Verbs</b>	<b>has been, have been, had been, will have been, shall have been</b>	<b>Singular—has been, have been Plural—have been</b>	<b>had been</b>	<b>will have been, shall have been</b>
<b>First-person</b>		<b>I have been walking</b>	<b>I had been walking</b>	<b>I will have been walking</b>
<b>Third-person singular</b>		He <b>has been walking</b>	He <b>had been walking</b>	He <b>will have been walking</b>
<b>Third-person plural</b>		We <b>have been walking</b>	We <b>had been walking</b>	We <b>will have been walking</b>

Practice the tenses above to get familiar with their forms. Keep these charts open as you work through the practice exercises to help you gain a foothold on the concepts and increase your skills with verbs.